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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Thursday, June 15, 1939

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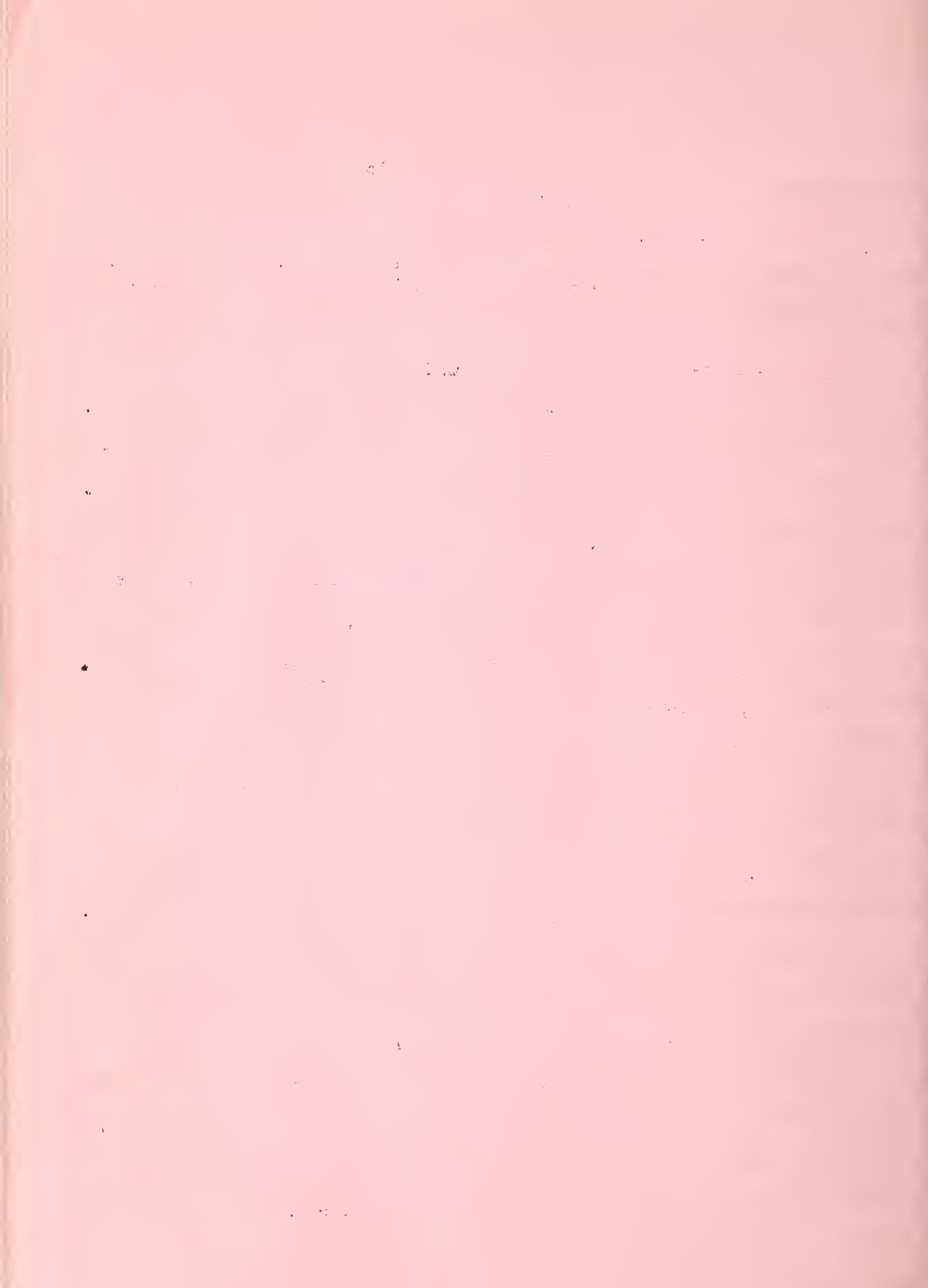
Subject: "BEING YOUR OWN BEST EXHIBIT." Information about some of the delegates to the Thirteenth National 4-H Club Encampment at Washington, D. C., June 15-21, under the direction of the Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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"Today is the first day of the Thirteenth National 4-H Club Encampment," writes our Washington reporter. "I promised to tell you in more detail about some of the young men and young women who are here. So I'm going to take you for an imaginary stroll about the camp grounds with me. We'll have some imaginary interviews with a few of the delegates.

"Those natty crisp green costumes the girls are wearing with their white hats are certainly attractive, aren't they? And the boys complete the picture in their all-white outfits. Everybody wears the 4-leaf clover insignia on an armband. There are 2 boys and 2 girls, you know, from each of 43 States, and one delegate from Puerto Rico. They will live the whole week in these tents down by the Tidal Basin, just across the street from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and within walking distance of many of the Government buildings and historical sights they will have an opportunity to see while they're here.

"I always say that every 4-H club member who has won the trip to Washington is his or her own best exhibit. I don't mean simply the green costumes which the girls make for themselves, or the fact that many of the club members have made high scores in health contests in other places before coming here. I'm thinking of the character, personality, and leadership that you can read in every one of the 175 faces around us. Without these qualities not one of them would be here, because it takes a fine record extending over years of club work for a 4-H member to merit the trip to Washington to represent his or her State.



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"Throughout the week of the camp the delegates will demonstrate this quality of leadership. They will be called on to come together, although they are utter strangers, hailing from all parts of the United States, to carry out each day's program. They will serve together on committees, conduct conferences, report on proceedings, speak before the entire group and over the radio, and lead songs and group games.

"Let's suppose we are asking this girl from Lamar County, Texas, about her club work. Her name is Fay Croslin.

"I've been in club work 5 years,' she says.

"What kind of projects were you interested in, Fay?

"Well, last year I canned 487 containers of fruits and vegetables. My garden contains 25 different vegetables. I set out 157 shrubs and trees and 80 berry vines. Then I refinished the furniture and painted the woodwork and floor of my room. And I was chosen yard demonstrator for our club. That is, I leveled and sodded our yard, made two walks, one drive, fixed clothes lines, and made a cutting bed.'

"Pretty heavy work for a girl, I should say. And how about leadership? Have you held many club offices?

"Just secretary, vice-president, and chairman of exhibits committee for the District Fair in 1938, and secretary of the county 4-H club organization.'

"Thank you, Fay. Now we'll talk to this boy from Kansas. Charles Hoyt. Tell us about your leadership experience, Charles, since that's the theme of this encampment."

"I've carried the leadership project four years. I was twice president of our local club, and represented the county club organization four times. While I was in Chicago at the National Club Congress I was selected as one of the boys to speak over the radio. At present I'm president of the Kansas honorary organization of outstanding 4-H club members. I have served on many committees, often as chairman.'

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"That's a fine leadership record, Charles. Here comes a girl who's traveled all the way from Washington State to Washington, D. C.,- Betty Jean Graham. What were your club projects, Betty?

"Poultry, sheep, clothing, room improvement, baking, gardening, and personal accounts. Each year I've put on an exhibit of several of my club projects, and taken part in judging work at various events. I've been on demonstration teams, and acted as leader for a clothing and a room improvement club.

"Do you make your own clothes, Betty?

"Most of them. I guess most club girls do."

"That certainly exemplifies how a club member can be her own best exhibit. Shall we see what's happening out in front of the Administration Building? Why, that's the Iowa delegation, having it's picture taken with Secretary Wallace. He always poses with the boys and girls from his home State. And I should think he'd feel pretty proud of them. My notes tell me that every one of the four representatives from Iowa is an individual health exhibit, and that the winners are chosen for the Washington trip on their long-time records compared in 72 counties.

"Let's ask one of the Iowa boys about his work. This is Gaylord Stadlman, of Sac County, and the 'Who's Who' says he has a splendid 10-year record in club work. What were your club projects, Gaylord?

"Baby beef, corn, pigs, health, and farm accounts. During the past 8 years I've done considerable cattle judging, and exhibited my beef calves at the State fair and been active on a number of demonstration teams. I'm quite interested in the wild-life conservation program. And last year I helped my father manage a 250-acre farm."

"What club offices have you held?

"I've been assistant leader, president, reporter, and chairman of the program committee."

"Time's about up. I'd like to ask Kenneth Bramlett, of Cobb County, Georgia, whether he's made any financial profits out of club work, and what he intends to do with his earnings.

"I've made a net profit each year," says Kenneth. "In cotton, corn, poultry, hogs, and cattle. And I'm going to the University of Georgia with the money."

"The boys and girls are all leaving the camp grounds to start the program of the day. So we'll have to stop our imaginary interviews, and if you don't believe this is what these boys and girls would have told us, just read about them in the camp 'Who's Who.' And watch the four from your own State. They're going places!"

That's all of the imaginary visit to the 13th National 4-H Club camp at Washington, D. C. It seemed pretty real while it lasted, though.

